

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 52 and 54-56 were previously pending in this application. Claim 52 has been amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification (for example, page 6, lines 3-13; page 17, lines 1-11; and the figures). Claims 52 and 54-56 remain pending with claim 52 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 52 and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 52 and 54-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,443,890 ("Ohman").

Ohman fails to teach or suggest an article comprising a polymeric component having a surface defining a plurality of protrusions and a plurality of intervening indentations, wherein portions of the surface defining the indentations are of material essentially identical to that of portions of the surface defining the protrusions, with the protrusions bonded to a surface of a second component in the absence of auxiliary adhesive, as described in amended claim 52. By contrast, Ohman teaches a first component having a plurality of protrusions and a plurality of intervening indentations, wherein the protrusions of the first component are bonded to a second component and the protrusions comprise a material that is different than that of the intervening indentations. For example, Fig. 9 of Ohman shows a first component (Fig. 9, #1) comprising a plurality of protrusions and intervening indentations, wherein the protrusions are bonded to the surface of a second component (Fig. 9, #7) and the protrusions comprise a different material (e.g., sealing strips 5) than that of the intervening indentations.

Because each limitation is not taught or suggested in Ohman, claim 52 is patentable over Ohman for at least this reason. Claims 54-56 depend from claim 52 and, thus, are also patentable over Ohman.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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